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## The crucible essay prompts

Updating the ACT Writing Test has many students confused about how best to prepare. With a lot more information to read before you start writing, the ACT essay needs to be more complicated right? No, not necessarily. Join me as I travel deep into the country essay ACT invites. function image credit: President of the Academy of Indiemos, which is used under CC BY 2.0. What does a call to write act actually look like? Here's a call I'll discuss and dissect in this article: Public Health and Individual Freedom Most people want to be healthy, and most people want as much freedom as possible to do the things they want. Unfortunately, these two desires sometimes conflict. Smoking, for example, is prohibited in most public places, restricting the freedom of some individuals to health. Similarly, car emissions are regulated in many areas in order to reduce pollution and its health risks to others, which in turn limits the freedom of some people to drive the vehicles they want. In a society that values both health and freedom, how best do we balance these two societies? How should we think about conflicts between public health and individual freedom? Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each of them proposes a specific way of thinking about the conflict between public health and individual freedom. Perspective 1: Our society should strive to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of people. If an individual's freedom interferes with this principle, freedom must be restricted. Perspective two: Nothing in society is more valuable than freedom. Perhaps physical health sometimes improves by restricting freedom, but the cost of the health of our free society is too great to justify it. Perspective three: The right to avoid health risks is also freedom. If we allow individual behaviour to endanger others, we have damaged both freedom and health. Write a unified, coheser essay on the conflict between public health and individual freedom. In your essay, make sure: clearly give your own perspective on the subject and analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective to develop and promote your ideas with reasoning and examples to organize your ideas clearly and logically to communicate your thoughts effectively in standard written English Your perspective may be in full compliance with any of the others, in a partial agreement, or completely different. What ACT wants to see in its essay: A short summary of how we delve deep into the depths of the ACT Writing Challenge. I wanted to quickly mention four key things you need to do in your essay in order to score above average. These four points are taken from both the ACT Quick Instructions (as mentioned above) and the ACT Writing section. To score at least 6/12, your essay must... Choose from a viewpoint. If you do not have a clear thesis that what is your opinion on this issue, then it will be hard to get above 2 in the Ideas & Analysis and Development & Support domains (for more information on them, go to our article explaining the ACT Writing section). Discuss at least two perspectives. Again, if you fail to analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other, it will be very difficult to get above 2 in the Ideas & Analysis and Development & Support domains. Be organized clearly and logically. If you jump back and forth between ideas without transitions or logical structure, it will be impossible for you to get above 2 in the domain of the organization on your essay. Be written in standard written English. Some grammatical errors are fine, but the more problems there are, the lower the score in the Domain Language Usage domain. For more information like this, read our 15 tips and strategies for applying to essay ACT. Why are ACT Writing challenges written this way? Now you know what ACT Writing Prompt looks like and what ACT is looking for in your essay. Another question: why are ACT Writing challenges formulated the way they are? There are few answers to this question, all of which have to do with why ACT, Inc. changed the essay in the first place. The new ACT Writing Test is more closely matched with Common Core Writing Standards, which are designed as criteria that suggest students are ready for college. Hypothetically, by preparing for the ACT Writing Test, students will also be preparing for college and the type of writing that you have to do there. Finally, a new ACT essay is designed to get more information about where students are and what areas are weak in inches If, for example, a student can analyze and support an argument about a problem, but has difficulty organizing their ideas and using proper grammar, the ACT Writing Test identifies these issues and provide feedback. More important than ACT, Inc.'s motivation for changing the Writing Test, however, are the effects a new ESSAY ACT invites will have on you. Are new ACT Typing calls harder than old ones? Not really. The way act writing frames essay prompts does a lot of work for you. Previously, the rubric rewarded students who placed a quick problem in a broader context, but didn't really provide any guidance on how to go about it. Now, to some extent, the challenge will provide you with a broader context in which to set your argument. The second major change is the inclusion of three different perspectives. ACT Writing always provided two opinions for students to consider, but not necessarily made clear that you needed to address the view against you and provide more points to back up your opinion. Now, by telling you that you need to analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective, ACT, Inc. is clearer about Expectations. In addition, each view provides not only a glimpse, but at the beginning of some reasoning to back up. Rather than trying to come up with a reason, someone would agree with the prospect that you think is completely unreasonable, now you will at least have a starting point to explain why the perspective might be true to some extent. ACT Writing Challenges: Patterns to prepare for the next step is to go into the patterns of topics and perspectives that make up the ACT Writing line. ACT Writing Prompt Topics, Dissecting Here's an example of a topic paragraph and title essay prompt from the official ACT practice test: Public Health and Individual Freedom Most people want to be healthy, and most people want as much freedom as possible to do whatever they want. Unfortunately, these two desires sometimes conflict. Smoking, for example, is prohibited in most public places, restricting the freedom of some individuals to health. Similarly, car emissions are regulated in many areas in order to reduce pollution and its health risks to others, which in turn limits the freedom of some people to drive the vehicles they want. In a society that values both health and freedom, how best do we balance these two societies? How should we think about conflicts between public health and individual freedom? In addition to providing introductory material on the topic, this paragraph contains possible examples that can be used in your essay. Even if you didn't know about the topic before the test, there are enough possible starting points out there that a lack of knowledge shouldn't have a negative impact on you too much. So what is the pattern behind each ACT writing the topic paragraph? The basic theme is always something along the lines of how people change the world or the way the world changes. They then told you about the conflict that arose as a result of the change and asked you to discuss it. Issue a call public health and individual freedom. The title gives you a general thematic area. Furthermore, the first two sentences lay down the basis for the conflict described in this call. In this case, there is a conflict between being healthy and being able to do whatever you want. Most people want to be healthy, and most people want as much freedom as possible to do the things they want. Unfortunately, these two desires sometimes conflict. The paragraph will further provide more examples of swift action in today's world. These are all possible examples that you can use in your essay to promote your discussion of multiple perspectives (more on that later). Smoking, for example, is prohibited in most public places, restricting the freedom of some individuals to health. Similarly, car emissions are regulated in a number of areas in order to reduce pollution and its health risks which in turn restricts the freedom of some people to drive the vehicles they want. The call usually ends with an explicit declaration of conflict – in this case, how can a balance be struck between individual freedom and the right to health? You will be asked to discuss how people change the world (in this case, society and its rules, rather than the physical world). In a society that values both health and freedom, how best do we balance these two societies? How should we think about conflicts between public health and individual freedom? Finally, you are accused of exploring a number of perspectives on this issue, which is being re-established (conflict between public health and individual freedom). Write a unified, coheser essay on the conflict between public health and individual freedom. Some see the glass as half full. Some see it as half empty. Some see it and call it Meowrgle (that's the sound of a cat meowing into a glass of water). ACT Writing Prompt Perspectives, Dissect There are three basic opinions that underlie the three perspectives that you listed in the ACT essay line. I'm titled it based on three different philosophical attitudes so that they are easier to refer to (rather than calling them A, B and C). #1: Conservatism Perspectives that fall into this category are not conservative in a political sense. Instead, these perspectives argue that change is not good or positive, or that things are better the way they are (or have been). Here are two examples of what it looks like in action: The view of Intelligent Machines: What we lose with human exchange machines is part of our own humanity. Even our mundane daily encounters already require us to have basic courtesy, respect and tolerance for other people. A look at Public Health and Individual Freedom: Nothing in society is more valuable than freedom. Perhaps physical health sometimes improves by restricting freedom, but the cost of the health of our free society is too great to justify it. #2: Utilitarianism This perspective takes a practical look at any of the issues mentioned in the topic paragraph. It will always be in favor of the most effective choice that provides the most benefits to as many people as possible. Here are two examples of utilitarian perspectives: A look at Intelligent Machines: Machines are good at low-skill, repetitive jobs, and at high speed, very accurate jobs. In both cases, they work better than humans. This efficiency leads to a more prosperous and progressive world for everyone. A look at Public Health and Individual Freedom: Our society should strive to do the greatest good for as many people as possible. If an individual's freedom interferes with this principle, freedom must be restricted. #3: Progressivism The last perspective is one that is in favor of progress (hence progressivism). It is necessary to the view that the change in the world caused by a problem or conflict is positive. Both of these perspectives from the ACT's official challenges fit into the category of progressivism: A View of Intelligent Machines: Intelligent Machines challenge our longstanding ideas of what humans are or can be. This is good because it pushes both humans and machines towards new, unimaginable possibilities. A look at Public Health and Individual Freedom: The right to avoid health risks is also freedom. If we allow individual behaviour to endanger others, we have damaged both freedom and health. Progress by Sean MacEntee, used under CC BY 2.0/Cropped from the original. How do I use this information in my essay? #1: Prepare evidence in advance Because you know that you will be asked about the ways in which the world is changing, it is possible to come up with examples to use for the test in advance. Where should you look for examples? Current events. Pay attention to what is happening in the news and in today's world. History. If you are going to write about how the world has changed, it helps to know what was true in the past. Think about how things have changed in your personal life, how you have grown up. For example, in my life, I saw a change from cassette to CD to MP3 to music streaming. What are the big shifts that you've seen occur? Maybe it's a change from regular cellphones to smartphones, or the election of the first black president of the United States. Make sure that you are not only able to identify changes, but discuss what has changed before and after these changes. Since the ACT can't fact-check you on your own experiences, you can also, as always, make examples of your own life to support your point. Some students find this option intimidating because it requires them to be able to quickly think of an example that logically supports the point. If the thought of doing this in the ACT makes you nervous, you should try it on the practice test first; if this does not go well, then you will know to stick to contemporary, historical and personal events as examples in your essay. #3: Plan your organizational strategy Since you need to cover more views of the ACT essay, make sure your essay is organized is more important than ever. But how can you practice being organized on your essay? Using three basic perspectives (conservatism, utilitarianism and progress), find out what the easiest and most logical way to organize your essay is for you. You can decide that you will always have a conservative opinion and combine utilitarian and progressive views into one contrasting paragraph, as this sample 6 essay from the ACT website does. Check out my step-by-step construction of a top scoring ACT Writing essay for other possible organizational strategies. #4: Try to Create Your Own ACT Writing If you really want to get good answers to essay ACT challenges, try to create your own challenges that follow the guidelines I set out in this article. Inventing your own ACT essay challenge will force you to come up with three perspectives on your own and be even more familiar with how challenges are built. As a bonus, you can then write practice essays in response to these challenges. See if you can get a lot of friends on it and swap invites to practice... and FUN! Okay, maybe I'm twisting the definition of entertainment here. Don't give me that look. What's next? Now that you understand the central ACT essay question and the three basic perspectives, you probably want more calls to practice with, right? These six ACT Writing Challenges are a great place to start! Immerse yourself in the steps you need to take to get the perfect 12 on your ACT essay. What's important in your ACT essay... and what not? Find out what will have the most impact on your essay score with this full analysis of the ACT Writing Grading Section! Want to improve your ACT score by 4 points? Check out our best-in-class online ACT preparatory program. We guarantee you money back if you don't improve your ACT score by 4 points or more. Our program is completely online, and it adapts your preparatory program to your strengths and weaknesses. We also have professional instructors who can sort each of your ACT practice essays, giving feedback on how to improve your score. Check out our 5-day free trial:

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